

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 NSC-05 USIA-06 OPR-02

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 H-01 /053 W

-----111144 190827Z /20

P 190410Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8051

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, MY, US

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT U.S.

1. JULY 18 ISSUE OF "WATAN," A DAILY TALOID PUBLISHED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. KHIR JOHARI, CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE STORY ANNOUNCING PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN WILL VISIT THE U.S. THIS SEPTEMBER, WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. DETAILS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT, STORY ADDED.

2. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE, HEADLINED "HUSSEIN TO VISIT AMERICA" TRANSLATED FROM MALAY:

DATUK HUSSEIN ONN WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO AMERICA THIS COMING SEPTEMBER.

THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY ARE BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

THIS OFFICIAL VISIT IS THE FIRST BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE LAST YEAR. PREVIOUSLY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED TO WEST ASIA (THE MIDDLE EAST). RECENTLY THE PM WENT TO LONDON TO ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS

OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE.

WHILE IN THE U.S. DATUK HUSSEIN IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH
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PRESIDENT CARTER AND DISCUSS ECONOMIC MATTERS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTS IN ASEAN AND THIS REGION.

IN ADDITION, DATUK HUSSEIN IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SEVERAL KEY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND TO ADDRESS THE U.S. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

WHETHER OR NOT DATUK HUSSEIN ONN WILL VISIT THE UN, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER, HAS NOT YET

BEEN FINALIZED, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS EXISTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WILL FOLLOW DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR'S VISIT TO SEEK AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA.

DATUK HUSSEIN ALSO POSSIBLY MAY BE THE FIRST ASEAN LEADER TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOLLOWING THE SECOND ASEAN SUMMIT IN KUALA LUMPUR NEXT MONTH AND THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTERS OF NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN.

DATUK HUSSEIN'S VISIT WILL MAKE HIM THE THIRD OF OUR NATION'S LEADERS TO PAY A VISIT TO AMERICA.

3. ALTHOUGH "WATAN" CIRCULATION IS LIMITED AND STORY APPEARED IN MALAY, WE EXPECT IT WILL PROMPT INQUIRIES BY PRESS AND WIRE SERVICES AS WELL AS BY OTHER MISSIONS. WE INTEND TO DECLINE COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO SUCH INQUIRIES. (FYI: "WATAN" HAS GAINED NOTORIETY IN RECENT MONTHS SINCE KHIR JOHARI HAS USED IT AS A VEHICLE FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. END FYI). BECAUSE OF ITS PLACEMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE LEAK WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, NEWSPAPERS, VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA04619
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770268-0049
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770744/aaaablil.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1820883
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT U.S.
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, MY, US, (HUSSEIN ONN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/386d9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009